

Submitter: Susan Florentino
On Behalf Of:
Committee: House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water
Measure, Appointment or HB4105
Topic:

Dear Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice Chair McDonald, and Members of the Committee,

I oppose House Bill 4105. Lincoln County, where I reside, is ravaged by ugly clearcuts. This bill is a gift to the logging industry because it prioritizes logging over all other forest values on state forests. It would lead more destructive clearcuts, which degrade habitat for fish and wildlife while greatly increasing risk of catastrophic landslides. This is not to mention the impact to scenic values, which create unfavorable conditions for tourists who come here for hiking, fishing, and other outdoor pursuits. The Department of Forestry has processes in place to establish timber harvest goals, and is currently exceeding the goals for timber cutting. We see this every day in Lincoln County where the log trucks crowd our state highways. This bill also would allow the timber industry to sue the Department of Forestry to force more logging on state forests. I urge you to oppose this bill. Instead, I encourage this committee to focus on measures that would protect our state forests and waterways for current and future generations. Please don't let this bill pass out of committee.